(14) CMD, Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited.

(15) CMD, National Projects Construction Corporation Limited.

Cost of war between India and Pakistan

3052. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an estimate published in an American Magazine and quoted in the National Herald of June 11th, 1990 about the cost of a conventional war between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government pursue their policy of peaceful relations with its neighbours, while maintaining full defence preparedness to counter any threat to the nation's security.

NAM Science and Technology Centre in New Delhi

3053. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NAM Science and Technology Centre was established at New Delhi almost a year ago as reported in Financial Express dated 4th March, 1990;

(b) the number of NAM Countries which have joined the said centre and actually paid their dues so far;

(c) whether the progress made so far has been satisfactory; if not, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken; and

(d) whether the Centre would be made fully operational and shortage of funds would not hamper its growth the third world and the NAM Countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes Sir, The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries was established in New Delhi about a year and a half ago, with the convening of the first meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre in New Delhi in March 1989.

(b) 32 countries have so far joined the Centre. Full membership dues were paid by two countries in the year 1989-90 while during the current year (1990-91) full dues have so far been paid by one country and partial dues by another.

(c) and (d) The Centre is in its formative stage. While considering the complexities associated with organising a multilateral international forum of this nature, the progress can be considered satisfactory. However, in order to accelerate matters further, the Governing Council requested the Member Countries to make appropriate arrangements for transfer of funds for the payment of their membership dues to the accounts of the Centre, and stressed the importance of attention being focussed on specific time targeted programmes without the resources being spread too thin. The scope of the Centre's activities will grow with the increasing participation of the Member Countries. In this process, the cooperation of the Member Countries will be an essential consideration. In addition, other countries have been invited to join the Centre as its members. India as the host country is providing its share to set up and ensure the running of the Centre.

R and D work on dehydration of flowers by NBBI

3054. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be plea-